

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/966,163

Examiner

Sow-Fun Hon

Applicant(s)

BURROWS ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 08/05/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-8, 10, 13, 14-19, 21 renumbered 2-8, 9, 1, 10-15, 16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12/31/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/05/04, 02/20/04, 3-29-02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/26/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patricia Prior on 08/26/04. The application has been amended as follows:
2. Replace claim 13 with: - - An edge-sealed barrier film composite comprising: a substrate; at least one initial barrier stack adjacent to the substrate, the at least one initial barrier stack comprising at least one decoupling layer and at least one barrier layer, wherein a first decoupling layer of a first initial barrier stack has an area and wherein a first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack has an area, the area of the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack being greater than the area of the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack, and wherein the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack is in contact with the substrate or a third barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack, sealing the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack and the substrate or the third barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack; an environmentally sensitive device adjacent to the at least one initial barrier stack on a side opposite the substrate; and at least one additional barrier stack adjacent to the environmentally sensitive device on a side opposite the substrate, the at least one additional barrier stack comprising at least one decoupling layer and at least one barrier layer, wherein a first decoupling layer of the first additional barrier stack has an area and wherein a first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack has an area,

the area of the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack being greater than the area of the first decoupling layer of the first additional barrier stack, wherein the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack is in contact with a third barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack, sealing the first decoupling layer of the first additional barrier stack between the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack and the third barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack, and wherein at least one barrier layer of at least one initial barrier stack is in contact with at least one barrier layer of at least one additional barrier stack, sealing the environmentally sensitive device between the at least one initial barrier stack and the at least one additional barrier stack. - -

3. Replace claim 14 with: - - An edge-sealed, encapsulated environmentally sensitive device comprising: at least one initial barrier stack comprising at least one decoupling layer and at least one barrier layer, wherein a first decoupling layer of a first initial barrier stack has an area and wherein a first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack has an area, the area of the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack being greater than the area of the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack, and wherein the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack is in contact with a third barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack or an optional substrate, sealing the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack and the third barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack or the optional substrate; an environmentally sensitive device adjacent to the at least one initial barrier stack; and at least one additional barrier stack adjacent to the environmentally sensitive device on a side opposite the at least one initial barrier stack, the at least one additional barrier stack comprising at least one decoupling layer and at least one barrier

layer, wherein a first decoupling layer of a first additional barrier stack has an area and wherein a first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack has an area, the area of the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack being greater than the area of the first decoupling layer of the first additional barrier stack, wherein the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack is in contact with a fourth barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack, sealing the first decoupling layer of the first additional barrier stack between the first barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack and the fourth barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack, and wherein at least one barrier layer of at least one initial barrier stack is in contact with a least one barrier layer of at least one additional barrier stack, sealing the environmentally sensitive device between the at least one initial barrier stack and the at least one additional barrier stack. - -

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 2-8, 10, 13-19, 21 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest cited prior art WO 00/36665 or US 6,664, 137, even when coupled with US 5,686,360, fails to teach the combination of multiple barrier stacks, multiple barrier/decoupling layers wherein the first barrier layer of the first additional layer is in contact with a third or fourth barrier layer of the first additional barrier stack and at least one barrier layer of at least one initial barrier stack is in contact with at least one barrier layer of at least one additional barrier stack, encapsulating the environmentally sensitive device to form a composite edge-sealed encapsulated environmentally sensitive device.


Art Unit: 1772


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number is (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at (571)272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sow-Fun Hon
09/15/04


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1/12

9/17/04